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AN ALEXANDRIAN EROTIC FRAGMENT, and other Greek Papyri, chiefly Ptolemaic. Edited by BERNARD P. GRENFELL, M.A. With one plate. Oxford : Clarendon Press, 1896. Pp. 129, small 4to.

THIS volume contains the text of seventy fragments of papyri, all but four of which were found by the editor himself in Egypt. Most of them are now in the possession of the British Museum and the Bodleian Library. They are grouped under five headings: A, "An Alexandrian Erotic Fragment and Three Fragments of Homer;" B, "Early Fragments of the Septuagint and Protevangelium;" C, "Papyri of the Ptolemaic Period;" D, "Papyri of the Roman Period;" E, "Papyri of the Byzantine Period."

As we should expect from a scholar who has had so large and creditable a part in the discovery, decipherment, and editing of the papyrus treasures which have been discovered in recent years, a scholar whose learning and ability have been amply shown in his publication of the "Revenue Laws of Ptolemy Philadelphus," the work of the editor of this book offers little ground for adverse criticism. A more ample commentary would have been welcome, but on the whole one can only commend the desire of Mr. Grenfell to give the texts themselves to the public with as little delay as possible.

The fragment of greatest literary interest is that which gives the book its principal title. It is a unique specimen of the erotic literature of the Hellenistic period, dating from the second century. One column of twenty-seven lines is preserved almost entire. It contains, as the editor describes it, "a kind of declamation in character, the lament of some Ariadne for her Theseus, written in half poetical, half rhetorical prose." The abandoned girl recalls the incidents of her love and desertion, and invokes "the kindly stars, and queenly night, partner of my love," to restore to her her lover. The tenderness and pathos of the poem vividly call to mind the deserted maiden of Theocritus.

The papyri of the Ptolemaic period, which constitute fully one-half of the fragments, are by far the most important of the contents of the book, clearing up several hitherto uncertain points in the history of the dynasty of the Ptolemies, and adding much to our knowledge of the social and economic conditions of Egypt during this period — a period on which our sources of reliable information have been scanty, and for which recent discoveries have done little. For example, the title of Eupator to a place in the list of kings between Epiphanes and

Philometor can no longer be disputed, though the ancient historians seem to know nothing about him. We learn also from the first complete list in Greek of the first ten Ptolemies (No. XXV) that the son of Philometor, called the young Philopator, was proclaimed king on the death of his father. He is ignored entirely by the Greek historians.

But space permits only to call attention to the valuable material for the historian which these documents contain, and to the curious items of human interest that meet one on almost every page, such as the spiteful letter of a lady named Artemis to a certain Serapion, informing him of the waywardness of his daughters (No. LIII). Bible students will be especially interested in the fragment of Ezekiel of the fourth century (No. V), with the exception of a small fragment of Isaiah the oldest text of the Septuagint extant, and in the vellum fragment of the Protevangelium of the fifth or sixth century, much older than the oldest manuscripts collated by Tischendorf. Of this Grenfell gives a collation with Tischendorf's text.

The volume is provided with useful indices: I, Proper Names; II, Place Names; III, Titles and Professions; IV, Symbols, and V, an extensive General Index of words.

EDWARD CAPPS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

**THE DAWN OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY.** A History of Exploration and Geographical Science from the Conversion of the Roman Empire to A. D. 900, with an account of the achievements and writings of the early Christian, Arab, and Chinese travelers and students. With reproductions of the principal maps of the time. By C. RAYMOND BEAZLEY, M.A., F.R.G.S., etc. London: John Murray, 1897. Pp. xvi + 538, 8vo.

THE author attempts to discover what the world knew about itself in a geographical way from 300 to 900 A. D. The sources of his information are the writings (1) of Christian pilgrims, (2) of missionaries and traveling merchants, and (3) of theoretical geographers and map-makers. These he examines singly and at great length, giving a good résumé of the contents of their works and of the contribution which each made to the general stock of geographical knowledge. The Christian pilgrims were all led by sentiment, and although there were many of them and they wrote much about their journeys, they added little real knowledge. The purpose of their journey as well as their